MEMORIAL.

General Thomas G. Stevenson

DECEMBER 7, 1905

E 467
.1
.S86
G33
Copy 1

With the compliments of

The General Thomas G. Stevenson
Memorial Association

Class E467
Book .11 .S86G33
PRESENTED BY

Thos. G. Stevenson

EXERCISES AT THE PRESENTATION

TO THE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OF A

BRONZE RELIEF

OF

GENERAL THOMAS G. STEVENSON

DECEMBER 7, 1905

PRINTED FOR THE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
BOSTON, 1906

E467
.1
.S86 G33

Gift
Author
11 0'06

ORIGIN OF THE MEMORIAL.

ORIGIN OF THE MEMORIAL.

There has been a feeling in this community ever since the close of the Civil War that a memorial of the late Brigadier-General Thomas G. Stevenson, who was killed in the battle of Spottsylvania, May 10, 1864, when in command of the First Division of the Ninth Army Corps, should be erected here to mark the public appreciation of the eminent services he had rendered to his country and of the noble character he bore. In the month of February, 1905, a number of his old comrades and friends decided that the time for action had come. The movement was placed by them under the direction of the 24th Club, consisting of former officers of the 24th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, of which

General Stevenson was the first Colonel. A meeting of that Club was held on February 27, 1905, at which the subject was thoroughly considered, and the GENERAL THOMAS G. STEVENSON MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION was organized. An Executive Committee, having full powers to raise funds for the purpose of erecting a memorial in the State House, was appointed, as follows:—

Francis A. Osborn, *President.*
Edward C. Richardson, *Secretary.*
Charles B. Amory, *Treasurer.*

Robert F. Clark. Frank G. Webster.
Thomas F. Edmands. John Parkinson.
James Thompson. Edward C. Johnson.
Charles Hunt.

It was also voted that the following circular be sent out, signed by all the Executive Committee:

THE GENERAL THOMAS G. STEVENSON MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

The survivors of the New England Guards, the Fourth Battalion of Infantry, the 24th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and the 44th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, with their friends, purpose erecting at the entrance at the Hall of the Flags, at the State House, a handsome High Relief in bronze of General Thomas G. Stevenson, and a committee has been appointed to secure funds for this object. The cost of this memorial will be upwards of $5,000.

The committee are desirous that all the old soldiers who served with General Stevenson, and old friends who also hold him in affectionate remembrance, should have an opportunity to aid in this memorial work. Contributions of any amount will be thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged, and may be sent to the treasurer of this association direct, or through the respective treasurers of the several organizations named.

RESOLVE OF THE GENERAL COURT.

The first step to take was to obtain authority to place the memorial in the State House where it would naturally belong. Upon application to the General Court the following Resolve was passed:

RESOLVE RELATIVE TO A MEMORIAL TO GENERAL THOMAS GREELY STEVENSON.

Resolved, That the Governor and Council, if they deem it advisable, be authorized to accept and place in the State House a memorial to the late General Thomas Greely Stevenson, to be presented to the Commonwealth by his comrades in the Civil War. *Approved March* 15, 1905.

Subsequently the officers of the Association had a conference with Mr. Bela L. Pratt, a sculptor of this city, who had demonstrated his artistic ability, and had gained great credit, by various important works of art, with the view of inviting him to make a sketch model of a high relief in the

likeness of General Stevenson, that being the form which it was desired that the memorial should take.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

On March 22d the Governor and Council gave a hearing to the officers of the Association at which the latter presented the following letter:—

Boston, Mass., March 22, 1905.

To His Excellency, the Governor, and the Honorable Council.

The Subscribers respectfully ask that the Eastern white marble panel in the Staircase Hall on the column at the entrance to the Memorial Hall of the State House be granted to their permanent use for the erection of a bronze memorial figure of Brigadier-General Thomas Greely Stevenson of Boston, killed in action May 10, 1864, at Spottsylvania, Va., while commanding a Division of the Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac.

The General Thomas G. Stevenson
Memorial Association,
by Francis A. Osborn, *President.*

Mr. Bela L. Pratt was also present on this occasion and exhibited a sketch model of the relief which he desired to furnish. The model was spirited and dignified, and met the approval of all.

On March 24 the following letter was received in reply:—

Boston, Mass., March 24, 1905.

Dear Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the Governor and Council held on the 22d inst. the application of your Association for permission to locate a bronze memorial figure of General Stevenson in the Staircase Hall, on the column at the entrance to Memorial Hall, was approved.

Yours very truly,

E. F. Hamlin,

Executive Secretary.

Gen. Francis A. Osborn, *President*

The Gen. Thomas G. Stevenson Memorial Association.

EXECUTION OF THE RELIEF.

The permission for the desired location having thus been obtained and the necessary funds having been subscribed, the Association on March 27, authorized its President and Treasurer to enter into a contract with Mr. Pratt to execute, in bronze of the best quality, the relief of which he had exhibited the model. The contract was signed on the same day, and Mr. Pratt went promptly to work upon the full-size figure, assuring the officers that he would have the bronze in readiness to erect in its place by the following December.

The casting was successfully accomplished by the Gorham Manufacturing Company at Providence, R.I., during the summer, and the relief was placed in position in the State House during November, 1905.

BORN AT BOSTON
FIRST COLONEL
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY 1861

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELIEF.

The bronze relief of the late General Thomas G. Stevenson is a little over life size, full length, and represents the General as coming toward the observer, field-glasses in hand. He has taken them from his eyes, as he strides forward to get the broader view of the unaided vision. It has been the intention of the sculptor to represent General Stevenson at the height of one of his campaigns, and to give to the face and figure some feeling of the tense strain of actual warfare. It has also been his aim to keep the relief in harmony with its surroundings, and in form, color, and line make it part of the wall of the building upon which it is placed.

The branches of the tree suggest "The Wilderness" where the General's last battle was fought, and at the same time fill out the composition of the relief as a whole, and seem somewhat to suggest in the bronze the veins in the surrounding wall

of Siena marble, and these add to the unity of effect. The orderly and the horse are used for much the same purpose, being kept very low in relief, and quite subordinate to the figure of General Stevenson.

The whole is cast in a light-colored bronze, and has a gray-green finish which is quite in tone with its surroundings.

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH.

By an agreement between the authorities of the State and the officers of the Association the 7th of December was fixed as the day upon which the ceremonies of dedication should take place. On that day there assembled at the State House a gathering of men and women from all walks of life, who were eager to show the respect and affection they had felt for their friend when in life, and to do honor to his memory. The numbers were so

great that they completely filled the Hall and overflowed into Memorial Hall, although no public announcement of the occasion had been made, and only these were present who had received invitation, as vitally interested, or who had sought it on their own behalf.

At 1.30 o'clock the band of the 5th Regiment, M. V. M., of which Mr. John Morley Flockton is bandmaster, began a selection of musical airs appropriate to the occasion, giving great satisfaction by their spirited performance. At 2 o'clock promptly the bugle-call was sounded, being the first number on the programme of the exercises, which read as follows:—

EXERCISES OF DEDICATION
OF THE
BRONZE SCULPTURED RELIEF
OF THE LATE
BRIGADIER-GENERAL THOMAS G. STEVENSON
IN THE
GRAND STAIRCASE HALL
OF THE STATE HOUSE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1905,
AT 2 O'CLOCK P.M.

---

1. Bugle-call.
2. Presentation of the Memorial to the Commonwealth.
3. Unveiling.
4. Music, "Hail to the Chief."
5. Acceptance on behalf of the Commonwealth. Hon. Wm. M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth.
6. Music, Selection from "I Lombardi." *Verdi.*
7. Prayer, Rev. Edward A. Horton, Chaplain of the day.
8. Memorial Address, General Francis A. Osborn.
9. Music, "America," in which the audience is requested to join.
10. Benediction.

PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

It has in all times been the custom to hold in honor the memory of those who have given their lives for their country. And well may it be so. For, if there were lacking that devoted patriotism that is ready to make the greatest sacrifices for the highest good of the whole, the ties that hold men together in nations would loosen, and civilization would fail.

Animated with that feeling, a number of our fellow-citizens have desired to establish in permanent form and in public place a worthy memorial of a gallant Massachusetts officer of the Volunteer Forces of the United States, who fell in the Civil War, whose character and life commanded their respect and attracted their love, and whose un-

timely death filled them with a sense of loss which time has not had the power to dispel.

To that end they commissioned Mr. Bela L. Pratt, a sculptor of this Commonwealth, of high ability and repute, to model for casting in enduring bronze a relief in the likeness of their hero. The task has been happily accomplished, and a noble work of art has resulted. By the kind permission of his Excellency, the Governor, and the Honorable Council it has been placed in position in this Hall, in close proximity to the glorious flag he loved and followed.

It is now, sir, my honorable duty and my great pleasure, on behalf of the donors, to present to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this noble memorial of one of her illustrious sons, who died on the field of honor, General Thomas Greely Stevenson.

When, at the conclusion of the presentation, the name of General Stevenson was uttered by the speaker, the American flag, which had been draped over the relief, was released by Thomas G. Stevenson, a namesake of General Stevenson and son of his brother, General Robert H. Stevenson. At that moment the band burst out with the inspiring strains of "Hail to the Chief," and the audience rose and remained standing until their close.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEMORIAL ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

BY

Hon. William M. Olin, Secretary.

SECRETARY OLIN'S ACCEPTANCE.

General Osborn, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I hope I shall not too seriously offend your sense of good taste if I say a single personal word. It was my fortune during the war to serve in the ranks of a Massachusetts regiment belonging to the Second Division of the Ninth Army Corps, which stood on the firing line at the Wilderness and Spottsylvania Court-house, with the First Division of that corps, commanded by the gallant Stevenson. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, I am affiliated with that post of the Department of Massachusetts which bears the full name of him whose memory we honor to-day. It is therefore with peculiar gratification that I stand in this presence as the representative of our Commonwealth.

This pictured bronze seems to me to commem-

orate both a public affliction and a public blessing. It commemorates an affliction in the loss of a life which had just blossomed into the full power of a splendid manhood. It commemorates a blessing in the example which that life has shown of absolute devotion, aye, of consecration to the highest ideals of American citizenship. We have often heard how the Spartan mother, sending her son to battle, handed him his shield, and bade him bear it with honor to victory or be borne back lifeless upon it. So Massachusetts sent forth to sacred strife this true child of her loins; but no need was there for the traditional injunction. Bravely he bore his shield on many a bloody field, and he was smitten by the hand of death in the forefront of the fight.

"His country asked his life.
His life he gave."

Home they brought him, slain, to receive the honors due to those who have sustained the supreme

test of patriotism. Forty years he has slept at beautiful Mount Auburn, where on every Memorial Day, year after year, his comrades of the Grand Army kneel and lay upon his resting-place fragrant tributes of their undying love.

And now, sir, the Commonwealth accepts this memorial, her eyes bedimmed with tears, but her heart glowing with pride that so noble a son is hers, and with gratitude that his memory is thus to be kept alive for the inspiration of those to whom we must look in the years to come for the upholding of the Massachusetts standard of clean personal character and self-sacrificing devotion to the public welfare.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

BY

General Francis A. Osborn.

ADDRESS.

We assemble on this historic spot to-day, more than forty years after the close of the Great Civil War, not for the purpose of rehearsing the events of that war, or of reviving its passions, but to commemorate a noble soul that, amid the thunder of one of its dread battles, passed through glory's gate into eternity to receive the reward of the faithful.

It is a blessed privilege given to man that he should have the faculty of preserving the memory of his loved ones. And it is at once a solace and an inspiration to recall their virtues, their kindly nature, their heroic traits, and their unselfish devotion to friendship, country, and honor.

It is then good for us to be here. I invite you

to pass a few moments in considering the character of the late Brigadier-General Thomas Greely Stevenson, whose counterfeit presentment in enduring bronze has just been unveiled. I shall devote but little attention to what he did. My aim and my earnest desire is to depict as well as my feeble words will permit the greatness, force, and charm of his character.

Thomas G. Stevenson was born in Boston, February 3, 1836. His father was J. Thomas Stevenson, who was of an old Boston family and filled an honored position as one of the leading men of this city, holding many places of trust and honor, a man of high character, of tried ability and genial manners, universally looked up to and respected. His mother was Hannah Hooper Stevenson, a member of a prominent Marblehead family, and a woman of great force of character and affectionate nature. She was a grand-daughter of General

John Glover, a gallant officer of the Revolution, who distinguished himself in many actions, whose statue lends dignity to Commonwealth Avenue. Truly, General Stevenson was fortunate in his ancestry, from whom can be traced many of the attractive characteristics which so greatly endeared him to his friends.

He was educated in the Boston common schools, finishing at the Public Latin School. From there he went into a merchant's counting-room, and later into the service of the Boston & Lowell Railroad Company, where he was in April, 1861, at the breaking out of the Civil War. He had already shown an aptitude and liking for military matters, and was at that time a sergeant in the New England Guards, a militia company of Boston, which dated its existence from 1812, and had since that time held a conspicuous and distinguished position in the volunteer militia of this Commonwealth.

The great wave of patriotic excitement which swept over this community in the winter and spring of 1861 had such a stimulating effect upon that corps that it asked and obtained permission of the proper authorities to recruit another company, and with it form an independent battalion under the name of the Fourth Battalion, M. V. M., under the command of Major George H. Gordon. The enthusiasm of the young men of that day was so great that the ranks of the new company were speedily filled.

Upon its organization there was never for a moment a question who should be its commander. Sergeant Stevenson's popularity was so great, and his ability so well recognized, that his election as captain was a foregone conclusion, and was enthusiastically and unanimously accomplished. A little later Major Gordon resigned from the battalion to take command of the 2d Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, which, under his command and

that of his successors, served with such distinction and gathered such abundant laurels. To fill the vacancy thus created, Captain Stevenson was elected Major with the enthusiastic approval of the entire command.

The battalion was on the day of the election garrisoning Fort Independence in Boston Harbor. It had been sent there by the State authorities a few days before to protect the fort, whose only occupant had been an ordnance sergeant of the United States Army, from a possible sudden raid of the enemy. It remained in those quarters from April 25 to May 25, just thirty days. Here Major Stevenson at once saw his opportunity to employ his remarkable capability for leadership. He had his command under the most favorable circumstances. It was composed of picked men, young, vigorous, intelligent, loyal, and enthusiastic. They were cooped up in a fort upon an island,

away from the city and the distractions of business and pleasure. Their time was to be wholly given up to military drill and military duties. They were happy in having a hand in the great work of the day, even in so humble a capacity. They looked upon this tour of duty as the first step toward the consummation of their desire to serve their country in the field, and were eager to fit themselves for that service. And, to crown all, they were devoted to their young commander with a heartfelt admiration that made any duty light which he had ordered, and caused their desire to gain his approval to be a most effective incentive to faithfulness.

Major Stevenson was just the man to utilize to the utmost such material and such opportunity. The result demonstrated his high capacity as an organizer and disciplinarian. During the thirty days the discipline of the fort was based on regular army methods, and the instruction was persistent and

thorough. The work was hard, but it was undertaken with cheerfulness by officers and men, all animated with the same hearty spirit. The effect was visible from day to day, and was conspicuously shown on May 25, that beautiful day on which the battalion, having been relieved by other troops, left Fort Independence, and returned to the city. As it marched through the streets, filled with crowds as vast and as enthusiastic as those which in those days assembled to bid God-speed to the regiments departing for the seat of war, its splendid soldierly bearing and its precision and promptness of movement bore striking testimony to the ability and skill of its young commander, who had in thirty short days fashioned this body of men, a large proportion of whom were new recruits, into a thoroughly drilled and disciplined organization, universally recognized as the finest militia body that had ever been seen in Boston.

The value to the country of the training there given is shown by the fact that at least one hundred and fifty of these young men, by far the largest part of those who served in Fort Independence, received commissions in the volunteer army, and carried with them there the thorough instruction and the high ideas of faithful devotion to duty that had been instilled into them in the New England Guards. They filled all grades of the service from second lieutenant to general officer, and everywhere made their honorable mark and became centres from which radiated the best influences for building up a brave and worthy soldiery. Had our friend rendered no other service, he would in that work have accomplished more than can be measured toward the efficient conduct of the war and the achievement of its successful result. It is well recognized that every life has its effect upon its associates, and thus to a greater or less extent upon the

world, but it is rare indeed to be able to trace so clearly and so widely as we can in this instance the vitalizing and elevating influence of one faithful soul.

Major Stevenson had his heart in this militia service, and felt that for the time he was doing the best he could for the good of the country, but he never for a moment thought of limiting his usefulness to so narrow a field. From the day of the attack on Fort Sumter he had been resolved to go to the war, and immediately upon his return to Boston from the fort he offered his services to Governor Andrew. The Governor, knowing his ability and his worth, welcomed him gladly, and tendered him at once the commission of colonel of a regiment that was then recruiting. But Major Stevenson had given deep and careful thought to the situation, and had clear-cut ideas of the way he could make his services more valuable. The exigencies of the early days of the war when this occurred had com-

pelled the State authorities in many cases to accept companies hastily gathered together and formed into regiments, with inexperienced officers and with small opportunity for drill, instruction, and discipline before going into the field. All honor to the noble men who were willing in their patriotic devotion to encounter the risks of war, magnified by such unfortunate surroundings!

But our friend thought that, as there was no lack of men offering themselves to go to the front under those circumstances, he could accomplish a much better result by remaining true to his convictions, and waiting a while until he could carry out the plan based upon his matured thought. Governor Andrew heartily approved his method, but regretted that circumstances forbade giving him immediate authority to raise a regiment in the manner he desired. He promised, however, that he would do so as soon as the pressing need for the

prompt despatch of troops should have diminished. Major Stevenson therefore passed the summer in Boston, giving all the time he could snatch from active business to the task of instructing, disciplining, and inspiring the young men under his command, and further extending his patriotic influence, which formed such an important factor in the life of Boston in those days. At the same time he did not fail to keep in close touch with Governor Andrew, who manifested a lively interest in him, and never wavered in his determination to give him the chance he coveted.

At length on the 31st of August Governor Andrew sent for him, and gave him permission to raise, by a regular system of recruiting, a regiment, the 24th Massachusetts Volunteers, of which he should be the Colonel, and further showed his own great confidence in his experience and good judgment by allowing him to nominate his officers.

The time for action had happily now come. It had been ardently anticipated and carefully prepared for. That very night he notified a large number of the young men, who were eager to serve under him, of the commissions they were respectively to receive, and gave them instructions for raising men. That was on Saturday, and on Monday morning these young appointees opened recruiting stations in the places of their choice, and commenced vigorous operations. From this time Colonel Stevenson devoted himself to the task of shaping and moulding the raw material daily received in the camp into a compact, well-drilled, and well-disciplined regiment, that should do honor to the Commonwealth and justify the principles upon which it was organized. The happy result was that on the 9th of the following December, when he left for the seat of war, he found himself at the head of a command whose soldierly

bearing made it appear a veteran corps, and not the creation of a few short months. This was due to his conscientious devotion to duty, his skill in organizing, his excellent judgment in selecting his subordinates, and his remarkable power of inspiring officers and men alike with his own enthusiasm, and of arousing in them a warm admiration and regard for himself personally.

The high appreciation of his merits was not confined to his subordinates, but was shared in full measure by his superiors and by all brother officers with whom he came into communication. Having been ordered with his regiment to Annapolis to form a part of the Burnside Expedition, he became a once a prime favorite at Division and Brigade Headquarters. His knowledge of his duties, his efficiency and promptness, and his good sense gave them confidence in him as a commander, and his genial and sympathetic nature called forth a respon-

sive feeling on their part which at once put them on the mutual footing of old friends.

Very soon after the arrival of the Expedition at Newbern he was detailed to command the Second Brigade of General John G. Foster's Division. He filled that position with distinguished success until December, 1862, when he received the United States commission of Brigadier-General of Volunteers, and was by that act officially separated from his regiment. That caused him great regret, for his heart was wrapped up in his first command, and it was an affliction to him to feel he was no longer a part of it. To be sure, he had not acted as its Colonel for many months, but he had retained the rank and the connection, and had had it in his brigade, and so still under his command. It was a natural regret, and one that was creditable both to him and the regiment. He had the good fortune, however, to keep it with him for a long time thereafter.

While in command of the 24th Regiment, he participated in the battles of Roanoke Island and Newbern, and received on each occasion complimentary notice in the reports of his Brigade Commander, General John G. Foster. Such notice from him was of no mean significance, for General Foster was a West Point graduate, rendered distinguished service in the Mexican War, was the second in command in Fort Sumter when it was attacked in April, 1861, was the life and soul of the defence of that place, and had a keen eye for soldierly merit and a frank and vigorous tongue to speak his honest thought.

While at Newbern, General Stevenson bore an important part in the movements toward Tarboro and toward Goldsboro and the resulting engagements, and in the other expeditions that were sent out from that base, which, though seeming insignificant when compared with the mighty events

occurring in the great drama which then filled the stage, had a value and importance of their own, and called for the qualities of head and heart for which he was conspicuous, and served to confirm the enviable reputation he had already acquired.

In January, 1863, General John G. Foster, having received what he supposed to be full assurance that he would be allowed to take command of the operations against Fort Sumter, and rejoicing in the opportunity to attempt to recapture that stronghold from which he, as a subordinate, had been compelled by his superior's surrender to depart at the beginning of the war, embarked at Newbern with the greater part of the troops stationed there, and proceeded to Hilton Head in South Carolina, the Headquarters of the Department of the South. General Stevenson, with his brigade, formed a part of that force. The political influence, however,

of General David Hunter, who then commanded that Department, though without ever having accomplished any valuable result, was too powerful, and General Foster was obliged to abandon the object of his heart's desire, and return to Newbern, leaving his troops behind him.

During the preparation for the attempt to capture Fort Sumter, General Stevenson was sent with his brigade to Seabrook Island to fortify it and secure the ironclads, then lying in the narrow Edisto Inlet, from harassing artillery fire by the land forces of the enemy. From that point he was ordered to James Island, where he repelled an onslaught of the enemy, thence to Morris Island, reaching there just in time to participate in the ill-fated assault of Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863. Upon that occasion General Stevenson's brigade was the third in column, and was the only organized force on the island after the other two brigades had been repulsed.

The commanding general had planned the attack, with singular ill-judgment, to take place just as night was falling, so that when our assaulting columns, having failed to carry the fort, were compelled to retire, they fell into great confusion by reason of the darkness which prevented their rallying promptly around their colors and their officers, and they were for a time merely a mass of armed men, without order or coherence and useless for attack or defence. General Stevenson, upon whom fell the burden of maintaining our hold on Morris Island, with his usual promptness and vigor made the necessary dispositions to repel the sortie of the enemy, with which he supposed they would naturally follow up their advantage; but the night passed without any offensive operations, except a furious artillery fire from Wagner, Sumter, and the forts surrounding Charleston Harbor.

From this time General Gillmore, who was then

in command of the Department of the South, contented himself with siege operations against Wagner, opening regular approaches and carrying his fatal trenches nearer and nearer to the doomed fort, whose fall was only a matter of time, and was really effected September 6, 1863. That obstacle having been removed, our forces were advanced to the northern point of Morris Island and our batteries were planted on the spot from which the South fired the first gun of the war,—that gun which resounded through the North, and aroused all its loyalty, its devotion, and its determination. All our batteries, both of land and water, were now directed against Sumter, the historic fort, and vigorous efforts were put forth to render it untenable, and to batter down its walls and make it practicable for assault, but the mighty missiles that would have splintered and shattered granite seemed to have but a feeble effect upon the humble brick of which it was built.

Through all this weary period of the siege General Stevenson, while burdened with work and anxiety, advanced his already high reputation for ability and efficiency, securing and retaining in a high degree the confidence of his superior officers and the affection and implicit trust of his troops. But during the early months of 1864 his health gave way under his unremitting labor, and he was obliged to return to Boston on sick leave. At that time General Grant was making his plans for the great movements which took place in the following summer. General Burnside who commanded the Ninth Corps, having a lively remembrance of General Stevenson and appreciating fully his high character and his value as a commander, made application to have him assigned to duty in that corps. His request was granted, and General Stevenson was directed to report to General Burnside, who put him in command of his First Division. The

Ninth Corps came up to the Army of the Potomac on May 6, in time to take part in the hard-fought and bloody battle of the Wilderness and subsequent desperate engagements. Now for the first time General Stevenson occupied a position where he could exercise his abilities on a large scale and show how the thought, the study, and the experience of nearly three years in active service in war had developed and matured his native capacity. High hopes were entertained of his future, and fond anticipation predicted brilliant achievements. Had he lived, they would have been realized, and he would have taken rank as one of the historic generals of the war, having a national reputation. But, alas! the opportunity was but a brief one. On the 10th of the month, in the battle of Spottsylvania, when he had been but a few days at the head of his Division, he was shot, and instantly killed.

Thus was cut untimely off a noble life, in the

vigor of youth, full of patriotic zeal, and charged with capacity for brilliant service in his country's cause. The measure of the loss cannot be estimated, but the deep grief felt by his comrades is a matter of bitter memory. By the nation would be missed the gallant, brave, and thorough soldier, with his clear good sense, his calm judgment, his military ability, and his conscientious devotion to its service; but friends mourned the joyous comrade, the warm-hearted, faithful friend, and the true man. Thank God that such men live! Even though they walk among us for but a few short years, they exalt our confidence in the noble capacity of human nature, and furnish an example and a lofty inspiration to all who know them.

Of General Stevenson's capacity as an officer and commander of men I cannot speak too highly. Whether or not he would have developed that rare military talent which makes high and independent

command illustrious, I cannot decide, for he was never brought to the test of experience; but I am happy in the belief that the man who had risen from grade to grade by merit, had ever filled each new position with ability and with credit, and had always been found equal to every emergency, would have made an honorable mark in any place of responsibility to which he might be called.

From the moment he entered the service his heart was in his work, and he devoted all the energies of an active and intelligent mind to giving to his beloved country the best and all there was in him. He did not take up the profession of arms from a desire for military glory,—he cared nothing for it. But, when he saw his country's peril, he felt that no sacrifice in repelling the danger would be too great, and he would not have shrunk back, had he known that the last full measure of devotion that he finally paid was inevitable. He was filled with

that lofty courage that fully realizes danger, but nevertheless faces it calmly, upborne by the high sense of duty that steels the heart and exalts the mind and banishes all thought of consequences. With that spirit he entered upon the duties of the important office of Colonel of the 24th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. He realized from the very beginning that the lives, health, and welfare of the men of his command were under his charge, and measurably subject to his control, and he made it a study how he could best perform his responsible duties. Without the training of a professional officer to guide him through the difficulties of his arduous task and to guard him against mistakes, he supplied its place with assiduous study of the requirements of his position, prompted and stimulated by a deep sense of responsibility, with the good judgment that quickly seized upon the best means for accomplishing results, and above all and

more than all with that consecrated devotion to duty that thought no effort too great for attaining success, and considered nothing done to that end so long as anything remained to be done.

That he organized a regiment that was a credit to this Commonwealth and received the warmest encomiums from all the general officers under whom it served was not a matter of chance or of good luck. The regiment was composed of fine material, of picked men drawn from all parts of the State; but even that was a part of his plan formed before a single man was recruited, and, therefore, was to his credit. But good men, brave men, do not of themselves make a good regiment. It is needful that they be welded into a compact mass, completely subservient to the will of their commander, full of faith in him and pervaded with his enthusiasm. To achieve that result is the office of discipline, which I understand to be the inspiring of the members of a com-

mand with such a deep sense of their obligation to the service and to their punctual and faithful performance of their duty therein that they give themselves up to the will of their superiors, and obey their behests almost automatically.

General Stevenson was eminently fitted to establish and maintain that form of discipline that subdued his command to implicit and cheerful obedience without crushing the individuals under a sense of irritating control. He was in no sense a martinet. He did not love power for its own sake, and he never used it wantonly, but he thoroughly understood that discipline is the basis of all efficiency, and that any army without it is nothing better than a mob. While insisting on obedience, promptness, punctuality, and faithfulness, he carefully avoided petty restrictions and unnecessary constraint. He sympathized with his men, and realized that nothing was more important for carrying on the war than

the need that those who were to do the fighting should be maintained in full vigor and in good spirits. Thoughtless of himself, ever thoughtful of others, he gave unremitting care to the welfare of the men, and postponed attention to his personal wants until he was sure he had done for them everything in his power. They on their side soon came to realize the kind spirit which underlay the strict discipline that was enforced, and to recognize that their commander exercised his authority not from a love of power or pride of office, but in the simple performance of his duty to make his command the most efficient possible instrument of war, and that, too, always with the keen appreciation that the body he was fashioning into the perfect shape was composed not of automatons, but of fellow-soldiers, his brethren in a great cause. With the intelligence, good sense, firmness, and patience that were his marked characteristics, animated with the kindly

and sympathetic spirit I have described, the task of dealing with such excellent material as presented itself was to him an easy one, and the effect of his efforts became apparent even when the recruits that had been sent in to the camp of instruction consisted only of squads of men who a few days previously had not known the meaning of a military order. The foundations were at that time laid broad and deep, and the superstructure that he built on them bore conclusive testimony to the wisdom of his methods and the efficiency of his efforts. Though he remained only a part of a year with the regiment before he was called to higher command, he in that time so impressed his spirit upon it that it always bore the stamp of his genius, always looked up to him with affectionate regard, and rejoiced to continue under his command as Brigadier-General.

It is a fact of the utmost significance that the rest of the troops of the brigade, among whom were

included the gallant 44th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, so well and favorably known and honored in Boston, conceived for him at once the same cordial feeling, the same confidence in his capacity and his faithfulness, and the same loyal devotion to his service. Never was a brigade more devoted to its commander, more reposeful in its trust in him.

It is difficult to convey to one who never knew our friend whom we commemorate in this noble and impressive bronze the charm that pervaded him, the influence he exerted over those who came in contact with him, and the affection he attracted from one and all, whatever might be the relation they bore to him, whether of friend, superior, or subordinate. In any gathering when his personality had play, he was easily first, and was the centre around which others revolved. And this without any assumption on his part, or any effort to create such an effect, for his modesty was as conspicuous

a characteristic as his ability. His native force of character, the self-poise that held him equal to any emergency, the broad mind that took a calm survey of every situation, the cool judgment that guided him unerringly through all difficulties, the strength he displayed in every position in which he was placed, commanded universal respect, and would of themselves alone have made him a marked man, and a favorite.

But what endeared him to all, what aroused a tenderness and a depth of feeling that a man rarely feels for one of his own sex, was his warmth of heart, the cordiality of his friendship, his frank and open character, his transparent sincerity, his generous appreciation of the good qualities of others, the modesty to which I have already referred, the absolute freedom from any trace of affectation or self-assertion, and the sense of humor that made him ever a cheery companion. He was a true, earnest,

and faithful friend, and, as a natural and necessary result, he made friends and kept them.

For forty-one years his mortal remains have lain in the grave, but to his friends his memory is to this day as fresh and green as if they had parted with him but yesterday. For the most of mortals the sad lament, "Are we then so soon forgotten when we are dead?" must be uttered with a conviction of the truth it bears, but our loved departed comrade belongs to that limited and illustrious company of rare souls whose memory wells up in the hearts of their friends like a living spring pouring out its clear, sparkling, and refreshing stream in never-ceasing flow.

OCT 4 [illegible]

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 013 708 647 5